

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 1-21 and 36-41 and represent claims 22-35 as follows:

Claims 1-21 (canceled).

Claim 22 (previously presented) A method of making a multilumen catheter assembly, comprising the steps of:

forming a unitary catheter tube having a distal portion and a distal end portion terminating in a distal end, a proximal portion terminating in a proximal end, and a first lumen and a second lumen, each of the first and the second lumens extending longitudinally through the unitary catheter tube; and

splitting the unitary catheter tube longitudinally along the distal end portion of the unitary catheter tube to form a first distal end tube and a second distal end tube.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein an exterior of the unitary catheter has a generally oval shape in cross section.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the first and the second lumen have a circular cross section.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein an exterior of the first and the second distal end tubes each have a generally semi-circular shape in cross section.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of finishing an exterior of the first and the second distal end tubes so that each has a generally semi-circular shape in cross section over a portion a longitudinal length of the first and the second distal end tubes, the first and the second distal end tubes having a generally circular shape in cross section over a remaining portion of the longitudinal length.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of releasably attaching the first and the second distal end tubes over the portion of the longitudinal

length where the first and the second distal end tubes have a generally semi-circular shape in cross section.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of releasably attaching the first and the second distal end tubes to one another over at least a portion of their longitudinal lengths, whereby the first and the second distal end tubes are splittable by minimal force over the releasably attached portion.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the first and the second distal end tubes are releasably attached beginning at a point where the first and the second distal end tubes begin to extend from the unitary catheter tube and continuing over a proximal portion of their longitudinal lengths, and are separate over a distal portion of their longitudinal lengths, and are separate over a distal portion of their longitudinal lengths to the distal end.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein, after splitting, a length of at least one of the first and the second distal end tubes is greater than a length of a remaining portion of the unitary catheter tube.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of grinding and polishing the first and the second distal end tubes to provide a generally smooth exterior surface to each of the first and second distal end tubes.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein an exterior of each of the first and the second distal end tubes is circular in cross section after the grinding and polishing.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein forming the unitary catheter tube is by a heat molding process.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the heat molding process is extrusion.

35. (previously presented) A method of making a multilumen catheter assembly, comprising the steps of:

forming a unitary catheter tube to have a distal portion and a distal end portion terminating in a distal end, a proximal portion terminating in a proximal end, and a first lumen and a second lumen, each of the first and the second lumens extending longitudinally through the unitary catheter tube;

splitting the unitary catheter tube longitudinally along the distal end portion to form a first distal end tube and a second distal end tube, thereby creating a point of transition between split and unsplit portions of the unitary catheter tube wherein a length of the split portion of the unitary catheter tube, defined as the length from the transition point to the distal end, is greater than a length of the unitary catheter tube from the proximal end to the transition point; and

releasably attaching the first and the second distal end tubes to one another along a partial portion of their longitudinal lengths, the first and the second distal end tubes being releasably attached from the transition point to a bonding point located between the transition point and the distal end, the first and the second distal end tubes being separate from the transition point to the distal end, whereby the first and the second distal end tubes are splittable by minimal force from the transition point to the bonding point and independent and free floating from the bonding point to the distal end.

Claims 36-41 (canceled).